

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior listings and versions of the claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A fastener mounted on a bag, comprising:

an engaging piece fixed on a lid portion of the bag and a latch mechanism comprising a metallic surface and a latch member, wherein the latch mechanism comprises a single latch fixed on an outer surface side of a main body of the bag and which is oriented so as to be substantially parallel to said outer surface of said main body portion of the bag and which is configured to detachably admit therein the engaging piece,

wherein the engaging piece comprises a single engaging ring configured for admitting the latch member and for engaging the metallic surface wherein said engaging piece is clad with a synthetic resin member configured for preventing infliction of injury to the metallic surface, and

a one piece holding member having a portion thereof extending therefrom, said engaging ring being mounted on said extended portion of said holding member so as to be spaced from an edge portion of the lid and said holding member being oriented substantially parallel to the lid portion of the bag, said engaging ring projecting substantially perpendicularly from said holding member wherein said holding member is connected exclusively to the lid portion of the bag in proximity with said latch mechanism, said engaging ring being directed towards an interior portion of the bag.

Claims 12-17 (Canceled).

Claim 18 (Previously Amended): A fastener according to Claim 11, wherein said latch mechanism is located on an outer surface of the bag.

Claim 19 (Previously Amended): A fastener according to Claim 18, which further comprises a release mechanism to release the engaging piece from the latch mechanism, said release mechanism being mounted on said latch mechanism wherein said metallic surface is located on an upper surface of said latch mechanism.

Claim 20 (Canceled).

Claim 21 (New): A fastener according to Claim 11 wherein, upon locking of said engaging ring with said latch mechanism, said holding member and said lid portion are positioned in a same plane as said latch mechanism so as to be aligned therewith.

Claim 22 (New): A fastener according to Claim 11, wherein a width dimension of said extended portion is substantially equal to a width dimension of said latch mechanism.

Claim 23 (New): A fastener according to Claim 21, wherein a width dimension of said extended portion is substantially equal to a width dimension of said latch mechanism.